12.04 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER

Constituting a parliamentary committee to look into the functions of Fertilizer Industry in the country

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, during the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture, a number of members had expressed their anxiety with regard to the increase in fertilizer prices. While replying to the discussion, the Minister of Agriculture had *inter alia* assured the House that a Parliamentary Committee would be set up to look into the functioning of the fertilizer industry.

The Minister of Agriculture accordingly wrote to me on October 8, 1991, requesting me to constitute such a Committee.

I am now happy to announce that a Committee consisting of 11 members-7 from this House nominated by me and 4 from the Rajya Sabha nominated by Hon'ble Chairman-has been constituted under Rule 254 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. Their names are:

Lok Sabha

1. Shri Prataprao B. Bhosale-Chairman
2. Shri Digvijaya Singh
3. Shri Ayub Khan
4. Shri P. C. Chacko
5. Shri H. D. Devegowda
6. Shri Shanker Sinh Vaghela
7. Shri Saifuddin Choudhury

Rajya Sabha

8. Shri Bindeshwari Dubey
9. Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav
10. Shri Som Pal
11. Shri Viren J. Shah

The terms of reference of the Committee shall be-

(i) to review the existing method of computation of the Retention Price for different manufacturers of fertilizers; and

(ii) To suggest whether there is any scope for reducing fertilizer price within the existing scheme of things, or whether a new methodology for fertilizer pricing should be evolved without causing undue strain to the exchequer, and at the same time assuring fair prices to the farmers and a fair return to the manufacturers.

In order to constitute a meeting of the Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of Members of the Committee.

In other respects, the Rules of Procedure of the Lok Sabha relating to Select Committees on Bills, shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

The committee shall have power to regulate its procedure.

The Committee shall make a report to the Speaker, Lok Sabha, within six months.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that the Minister of Agriculture in his recent interview to the *Economic Times* has said something which is very derogatory. While referring to the Chairman of the Rural Commission on Labour, he said that the Chairman is of perverse mind. It is a derogatory remark. Of course, he has denied it